

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### W.E. Rock-2015 Rock Crawling Event DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0028-CX

#### Identifying Information

**Project Title:** W.E. Rock-2015 Rock Crawling Event

**Legal Description:** T1N, R102W, Sec. 10

**Applicant:** Rich Klein

#### Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

**Land Use Plan:** White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)

**Date Approved:** July 1997

**Decision Language:** "Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) will be issued to qualified guides and outfitters based on need and demand for services." (Page 2-43)

#### Proposed Action

##### *Project Components and General Schedule*

The applicant, Rich Klein, doing business as W.E. Rock Events LLC-World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series has applied for another Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a competitive rock crawling event within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park. The applicant received a SRP from the WRFO for this same event held on April 26-27, 2014. There were no issues with this event and the applicant complied with all terms and conditions of the SRP. The proposed dates of the 2015 competition are June 13-14, 2015 with the competition being held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Admission would be \$25.00 for a two-day pass for adults or \$15.00 per day, \$5.00 for kids age 8-15, and kids age 7 and under are free. This event is proposed to be one of a 20 event competitive series in 2015 with races scheduled around the country for the [World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series](#). The applicant has

promoted and held over 150 rock crawling and dirt racing events over the past 14 years without claim against his insurance policy.

The two-day competitive event would take place at a location within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park near a parking area, a well pad, and an unnumbered BLM road adjacent to the Horseshoe Trail (Figures 1 and 2). This event would be open to the public for both competing and/or spectating. It is estimated that there would be 30 competition vehicles and approximately 200 spectators each day. An established and surfaced parking area near the well pad would serve as the parking area for spectators and the pit area for competitors. These areas would be established separately, identified with stringer pendant, and controlled by event staff. Spectator viewing areas would also be defined using stringer pennant and patrolled by event staff. Competition vehicles would move from the pit area to the competition course no greater than 5 miles per hour and with a spotter to ensure safety. A public address system would be used to inform competitors, spectators, and staff of happenings during all event hours. Rich Klein would serve as the Event Marshall and has local phone numbers for area law enforcement and medical assistance if needed. Two judges would be in charge of competitors on the course and 7-12 event staff will be in the spectator areas around the competition courses. Event staff would include one paramedic and two EMT First Responders with advanced medical treatment bags, spine and neck immobilization devices, and back board. Event staff would be identified by wearing W.E. Rock vests and would communicate with each other using FRS family radios and cell phones between each other, the Event Marshall, and BLM staff. The local law enforcement and local EMS would be notified of the event at least two weeks before the event. A competition driver's briefing would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to explain event rules, safety guidelines, and communications. All competition vehicles would be checked after the briefing and are required to carry at least two fire extinguishers. OHV registration stickers would be required of all competitors participating in this event. See the [W.E. Rock-Communication and Safety Plan](#) (Appendix B) for additional information.

The proposal also includes having a food and drink vendor on site and licensed by the county, if needed. Merchandise is proposed to be offered for sale at the event from the W.E. Rock trailer. Garbage cans would be set up throughout the spectator's areas and the entire event area would be patrolled for garbage post event. Six portable toilets would be available for public use. Media permits would be limited to eight within the competition area at a time. All media personnel would attend a mandatory media meeting at 9:45 a.m. each day of the event and would be identified with W.E. Rock media vests.

### ***Design Features***

1. The applicant has agreed to and signed a copy of the [White River Field Office \(WRFO\) SRP policy](#), [Colorado BLM SRP Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations](#), and the [Colorado BLM Special Stipulations for Competitive, Organized, and Off-highway Vehicle Events](#). There are a variety of terms, conditions, and stipulations that are applicable to this proposal found in these documents.
2. If spectator and any other vehicle traffic creates fugitive dust plumes behind vehicles, a 500 gallon water truck will be available to spray the parking area and a portion of the access road to reduce or eliminate fugitive dust during the two day event.

## **BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

## **Categorical Exclusion Review**

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, H1: *“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).”*

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

## Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 1/20/2015. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Brian Yaquinto	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	2/3/2015
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	1/26/2015
Matthew Dupire	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	1/28/2015
Aaron Grimes	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Project Lead, Recreation	1/28/2015
Heather Sauls	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	2/13/2015

**Cultural Resources:** A records search of the general project area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), was completed by WRFO's archaeologist Brian Yaquinto for the Proposed Undertaking. The entire project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources at the Class III intensity level. One archaeological site (5RB 2119), which was deemed not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, is located within the middle of the project area. Despite being listed as not eligible, 5RB 2119 will be revisited before the start of the 2015 event, to look at objects of cultural or historical interest that may have been exposed as a result of historic and modern disturbances. No additional cultural resource work is required for the Proposed Action.

**Native American Religious Concerns:** No Native American religious concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

**Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:** There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. Water use associated with the Proposed Action will result in the loss of no more than .001 acre-foot of water and would thereby be considered a *de minimis* water depletion to the Upper Colorado River Basin and would have no effect on endangered Colorado River fishes. There are no substantial wildlife related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Any impacts to wildlife will be short term and localized.

**Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:** There are no threatened or endangered plant species or habitat in the vicinity of the proposed event. There is potential habitat for BLM sensitive plants approximately 100 meters south of the spectator parking area; however no surveys exist to determine if any sensitive plants occupy the area. The Proposed Action is expected to have minimal impact to sensitive plants if they do in fact occupy the area.

### **Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife local staff was contacted about the dates of this event last year because the event was planned near the end of the mule deer winter timing limitation. The dates for this year's event were planned to avoid this timing limitation. The applicant has contacted the Town of Rangely about the event and they were very supportive of the event.

### **Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H1. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Theresa E. Walther

Field Manager

02/13/2015  
Date



## Appendix A. Figures

Figure 1-Overview of W.E. Rock event

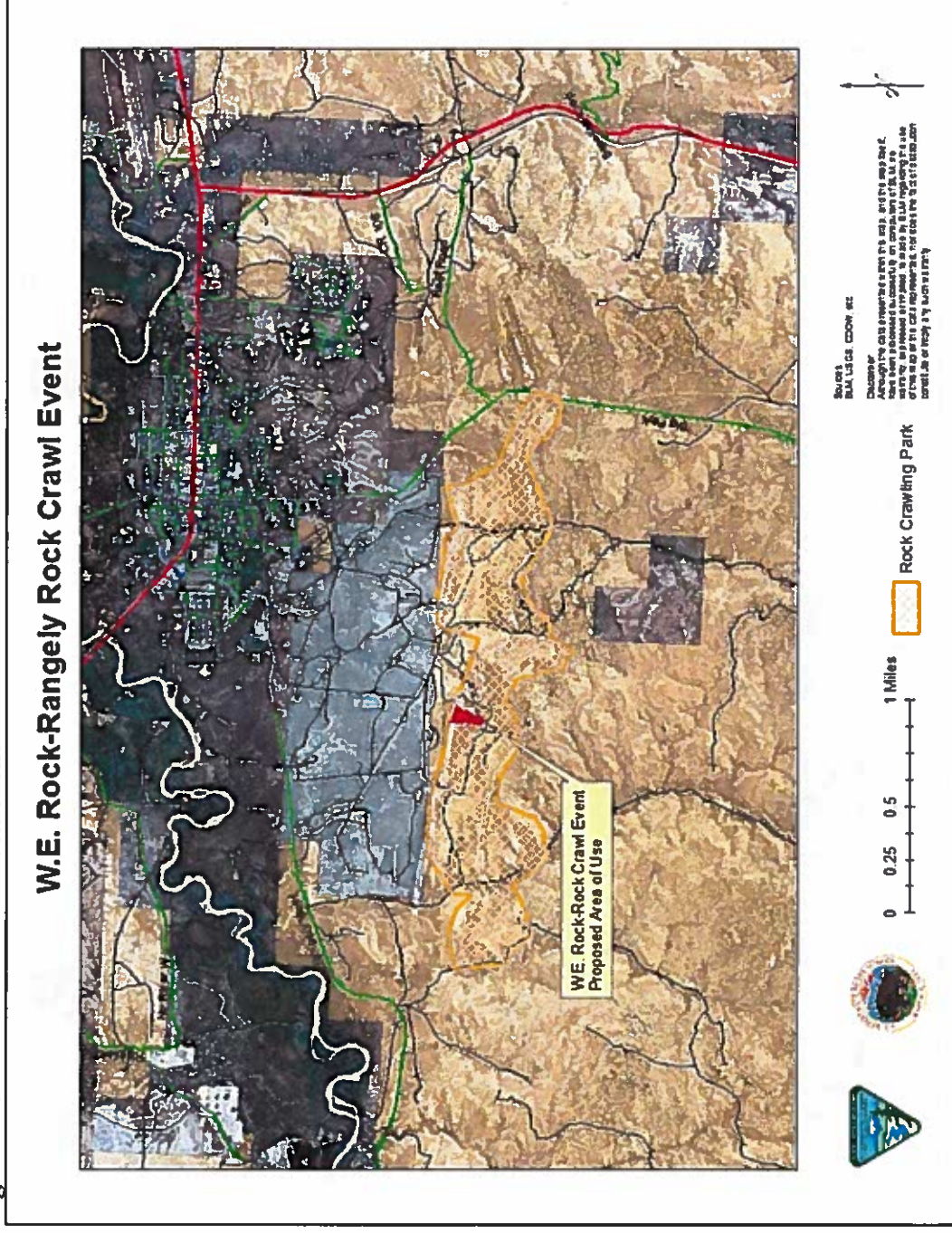
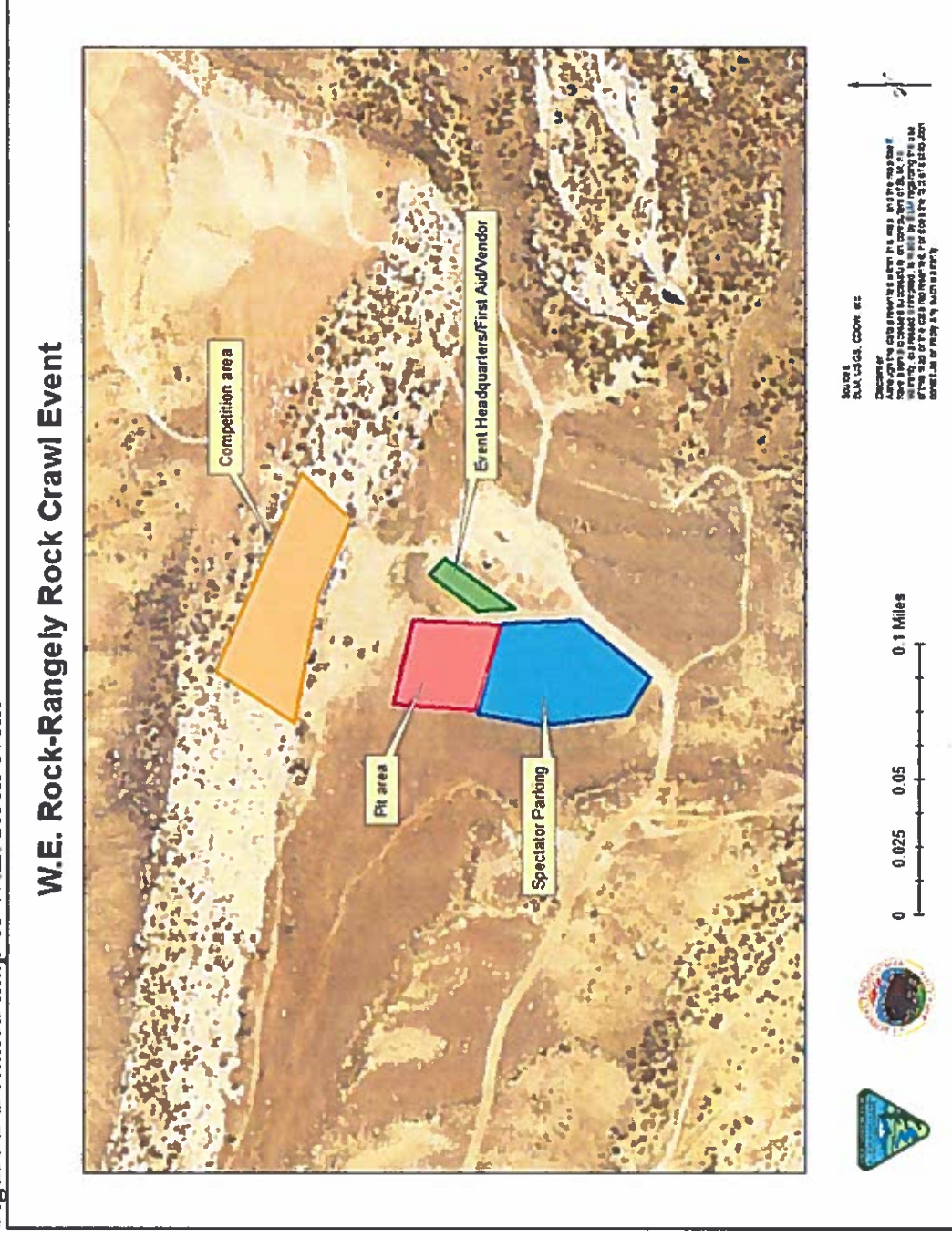


Figure 2-Detailed map of W.E. Rock event





## **Appendix B – W.E. Rock: Safety and Communication Plan**

Rangely, CO.

June 13-14, 2015

Rock Crawl Competition

**Signage:** Various travel information signage will be used along route from the town of Rangely to the competition site. Signs will include directional arrows, mileage or distance remaining and, event identifier (WE Rock rock crawl). All signs will be mounted to corrugated plastic sign boards and use wood stakes for positioning.

Once the travelers are directed to the competition site, there will be signage directing and separating the traffic between vendors to the vendor area, competitors to the competitor parking area (pit) and the spectators to the spectator parking area. There will also be staff on hand directing spectator traffic on the days of the event in the area just before the spectator parking area. Staff will be in identifiable safety vests, and be in radio communication with event Marshall, using FRS family radios on channel 11.

Spectator viewing areas are defined using stringer pennant to separate them from the competition areas. Competitor vehicles travel at no speed greater than 5 mph when moving from the pit area to the competition areas, less than that of normal shopping center parking lots, in addition the vehicles move about with a spotter to make sure those around the vehicle are safe.

All staff will be assigned FRS radios; all staff will have personal cell phones with the Event Marshalls phone number. There will be a Public Address system utilized during the event to inform competitors, spectators and staff of happenings during all event hours. Each of the competition areas (7 within the area marked on the map) will be staffed with at least 2 “judges” who will be in charge of competitors while on course. Crowd control staffer’s (7 to 12) will be in the spectator areas around the competition courses.

Local Law enforcement has been contacted as to the intent of WEROCK to secure this event on the proposed dates. Once the permit has been granted, both the local Police Department and the Sheriff’s department will be notified again of any needs, expectations, etc.

WEROCK has been in contact with the local EMS Office and has forwarded the contact info to the WEROCK staff EMS Officer for the two to work out details of the event. Local Ambulance will be used in case of non-life threatening emergencies, while air-evac will be used in case of life threatening emergencies, this will be determined by a combination of WEROCK staff EMS and Local EMS staff. WEROCK EMS staff consists of at least 1 Paramedic and 2 EMT First responders.

**Safety Plan:**

WEROCK EMS Staff; 1 paramedic (Colorado State Certified), 2 EMT First Responders (Colorado State Certified).

Emergency Equipment on hand: Including but not limited to, Back Board, neck and spine immobilization devices, advanced medical treatment bags. Ambulance will be on stand-by for transportation if needed.

Pit area will be off to one side of the event area, a 5 mph speed limited is enforced by the event Marshall in the pit at all times (punishment is DQ from the event). Vehicles move from pit to competition area with a spotter to make sure anyone around is safe and aware of the moving vehicle. (this is not a race, no vehicles are moving at more than 5mph)

If there is a rollover or accident on the comp course, the team has the right to try and up right the vehicle to complete the run, staff will determine if the driver is safe to continue the course. If the driver is injured the WEROCK EMS staff will deal with the situation as needed. If evacuation is needed the Paramedic or the Event Marshall will call 911. Only 1 vehicle is allowed on any one course at a time. Being that the event site is only a few minutes from town response time for an ambulance if needed should be less than 10mins in each direction.

A drivers meeting (briefing will be held at 9am on Saturday April 26th, this one hour before the start of the competition. The meeting will include and address event rules, Park rules, and safety guidelines. BLM Staff is encouraged to attend.

WEROCK for 13 years has encouraged spectators to tour the pit area, again this is not a race but a trials competition where speed is not an issue. Our sport is built around technical CRAWLING of the vehicles and creating FANS of our spectators. In 13 years and nearly 200 events we have never had a spectator vs vehicle accident, again this is not a race where speed is an issue.

Spectators are kept at a minimum of 20 feet from the competition vehicles while on course, in a possible rollover area the distance will be greater (distance dependent on the course and terrain.)

Courses are surrounded by Stringer pennant that defines the comp courses, there will be a pole sign with the course number on it, inside the comp course area the route is laid out using numbered cones to determine course flow. Larger cones identify the start and finish of each course. No course should be greater than about ¼ of an acre in size. In most cases the entire comp area is under 5 acres.

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## DECISION RECORD

### *W.E. Rock-2015 Rock Crawling Event* **DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0028-CX**

#### **Decision**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0028-CX, authorizing a Special Recreation Permit for Rich Klein, doing business as W.E. Rock Events LLC-World Extreme Rock Crawling Championship Series to conduct a competitive rock crawling event within the Rangely Rock Crawling Park on June 13-14, 2015.

#### ***Applicant Committed Design Features***

1. The applicant has agreed to and signed a copy of the [White River Field Office \(WRFO\) SRP policy, Colorado BLM SRP Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations](#), and the [Colorado BLM Special Stipulations for Competitive, Organized, and Off-highway Vehicle Events](#). There are a variety of terms, conditions, and stipulations that are applicable to this proposal found in these documents.
2. If spectator and any other vehicle traffic creates fugitive dust plumes behind vehicles, a 500 gallon water truck will be available to spray the parking area and a portion of the access road to reduce or eliminate fugitive dust during the two day event.

#### ***BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources***

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under

guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

## **Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

## **Public Involvement**

This project was posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) e-Planning register on 01/20/2015 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted to the online NEPA register. No comments or inquiries have been received.

## **Rationale**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H1. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Authorizing a SRP for this competitive rock crawling event provides a unique opportunity to view and participate in a recreational event on public lands within a setting that is appropriate and suitable for this type of event. This event demonstrates the participant's technical skill set for the spectators and provides unique competitive technical challenges for participants in a competition format.

## **Monitoring and Compliance**

On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff before, during, and after the competitive competition. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The applicant will be notified of compliance



related issues, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided immediate notice to resolve such issues before the competition proceeds.

Cultural site 5RB 2119 will be revisited by a BLM Archaeologist before the start of the 2015 event, to look at objects of cultural or historical interest that may have been exposed as a result of historic and modern disturbances.

## **Administrative Remedies**

### Process for Appeals

An appeal is an opportunity for a qualified party to obtain a review of a BLM decision by an independent board of Administrative judges within the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The IBLA determines whether the BLM followed applicable laws and regulations, adhered to established policies and procedures, and considered relevant information in reaching a decision.

Individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to deny, modify or cancel a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 C.F.R., Part 4, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. §4.411. A person who wishes to appeal to the IBLA must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice that he wishes to appeal. "Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals" is enclosed for your convenience.

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

### **Signature of Authorized Official**



Field Manager



Date

